

THE INTERNATIONAL MAP OF THE WORLD

COMMUNICATION

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE RECOMMENDING A REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR AN APPROPRIATION FOR A CONTRIBUTION BY THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE EXPENSES OF THE BUREAU FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MAP OF THE WORLD TOGETHER WITH A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

DECEMBER 30, 1924.—Read; referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith a report by the Secretary of State recommending a request to Congress to enact legislation providing for an appropriation of thirty dollars for the payment for the calendar year 1925 of a contribution by the United States toward the secretarial expenses of the bureau for the international map of the world.

The matter is fully explained in the report of the Secretary of State. In view of the importance which the Secretary of the Interior attaches to this bureau and its work, I trust that the small appropriation recommended will be granted.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, December 30, 1924.

The PRESIDENT:

The undersigned the Secretary of State has the honor to recommend that Congress be requested to enact legislation providing for an appropriation of \$30 for the payment for the calendar year 1925 of a contribution by the United States toward the secretarial ex-

penses of the Bureau for the International Map of the World, and, in explanation of the recommendation, to report as follows:

At an international conference held at Geneva, Switzerland, in the summer of 1908, a resolution was passed looking to the standardization of the international map of the world on a scale of 1 : 1,000,000.

In November, 1909, on the invitation of the British Government, an international committee, in which the United States was represented by Mr. Bailey Willis and Mr. S. J. Kubel, of the Geological Survey, met at London for the purpose of elaborating proposals for putting into effect the resolution of the Geneva conference. Resulting from the meeting of that committee, the work of preparing a map of the United States on the scale mentioned was undertaken by the Geological Survey.

In December, 1913, a second conference of the international map of the world was held at Paris. This conference adopted a resolution to the effect that a permanent bureau of the undertaking should be established at the ordnance survey office at Southampton, England, with an auxiliary office at London. This office was duly established, and inquiry was made by the British Government whether the Government of the United States would adhere to the proposal and contribute the sum of \$30 per annum toward the secretarial expenses of the bureau.

This inquiry was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, whose department replied on May 15, 1914, that in its opinion "it seems desirable that the United States Government should lend its support to the permanent bureau proposed for the international map of the world," and suggested that an appropriation for this purpose be asked of Congress.

In accordance with this suggestion the Department of State included in its estimates for foreign intercourse for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, an item reading as follows: "For the payment for the calendar year 1915 of the contribution toward the secretarial expenses of the Bureau of the International Map of the World, \$30." This request was not granted by Congress, presumably because owing to the war the activities of the bureau were curtailed to a great extent.

The matter has been brought anew to the attention of this Government by the British Government, whose embassy at Washington has by instruction inquired whether the Government of the United States would now be disposed to adhere to the bureau. This inquiry having been referred to the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Work has advised the Secretary of State as follows:

It is highly desirable that the United States Government should contribute the sum of 150 francs per annum toward the support of a permanent bureau proposed for the international map of the world with a secretarial office in London. It is even more important that this bureau should have active cooperation from all countries now than it was in 1914, due to the fact that the World War has made such extensive alterations in the boundaries of the various countries of Europe, and this geographic knowledge can only be obtained through some central bureau which is maintained and authorized to supply the various countries with the information desired.

As there is no existing appropriation which permits this Government to pay its quota of the expense involved in maintaining this bureau, it is requested that the Department of State when considering its next annual estimates include in them an item to cover the expenses involved.

I inclose a copy of a letter from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, stating that this request is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. HUGHES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 29, 1924.

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, December 11, 1924.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have your letter of December 9, 1924, inclosing copy of a proposed report to the President recommending that Congress be requested to authorize an appropriation of \$30 for the payment, for the calendar year 1925 of a contribution by the United States toward the secretarial expenses of the Bureau of the International Map of the World, and asking whether the action proposed in the report is in harmony with the financial policy of the President.

It gives me pleasure to advise you that the proposed request for legislation authorizing an appropriation of \$30 for the purpose stated is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. LORD, *Director.*

The SECRETARY OF STATE.

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